apoti nī

Apotí ni.

It's a box.

Α

apoti kinī

Apoti kını?

What kind of box?

В. NOTES

1. nī in a 'naming construction.'

Notice the utterance:

apoti nī 'it is a box'

. The construction which consists of a noun followed by ni is a 'naming construction,' corresponding partially to the English 'it is a ____.'

2. Extra mora before kinī.

Compare the phrases:

àpoti nī 'it is a box'

apoti kinī 'what kind of box?'

The word which corresponds to English 'what kind of?' when it is used alone or at the beginning of a phrase, is pronounced kinī. This is also the way in which it is customarily written in all positions. It will be helpful, however, if we think of this word as being basically 'kini. The symbol 'stands for a unit of vowel duration which has mid tone. It is always of the same vowel quality as the preceding vowel.

Tone classes of nouns. 3.

The exercises introduce nine new nouns. Notice that nouns which are alike in tone when pronounced alone are also alike in tone when used in other contexts.

'Smoothing' of the rising tone before mid tone when there 4. is no intervening consonant.

Notice the tones of the syllable we in:

iwě iwě nī iwé kínī

Concerning the tone of the second syllable of $\underline{\text{iwe}}$ before \cdot , see p. 53.

5. The meaning of ago.

The word <u>ago</u> is used when asking others to make way for one, or instead of knocking at the door of a house. Abraham (p.30) explains ya in <u>ago ya ō</u> as meaning that 'the necessity for saying ago has been removed'.

The tone of the second syllable of <u>ago</u> need not concern us here. Neither of the tone changes exemplified in this dialogue is arbitrary, however; each is paralleled by countless other forms in Yoruba.

C. Exercises.

Practice the following pairs of expressions so that when you hear <u>either member</u> of a pair you can respond immediately with the other member. Practice each of the three groups separately at first. Then combine them.

1. Noun plus n1.

a. 'Low-rise nouns'

ìwě	'book	ìwě nī	'it is a book'
opă	'walking stick'	opă nī	etc.
kekě	'bicycle'	kekě nī	

b. 'Low-low nouns'

ęwu	'shirt'	ewu nī
ba ta	'shoe'	bata nī
oko	'spear'	oko nī

c. 'Low-mid nouns'

o bē	'knife'	obe nī
ìbōn	'gun'	ibōn nī
• p o	'monkey'	obo nī

- 2. Nouns with <u>kini</u>. Remember to practice each group separately at first.
 - a. 'Low-rise nouns'

ìwě	iwe kinī
opa	opa kinī
keke	keke kinī

b. Low-mid nouns!

o bē	obē kinī
ìbōn	ibōn kinī
o po	obo kinī

c. 'Low-low nouns'

- 3. Nouns with ni vs. nouns with kini.
 - a. iwě nī iwě kínī

 opă nī opă kinī

 keke nī keke kinī

b.	obe nī ibon nī	obē kinī ibon kinī
C.	ewu nī	ewu kinī
	bata nī	bata kinī
	ộkộ nĩ	oko kinī

D. Supplementary material.

1. Miscellaneous useful nouns.

ឨ ៵ ុ៑	'cloth'		
ișîro	'counting, arithmetic'		
yōrùbǎ	'Yoruba'		
awotélê	article of clothing	ng worn under another!	
īle wě	'school'		
āgbada	'man's outer garment'		
īse	'work'		
apoti	apoti nī		
	apoti kinī		
	apoti āṣo nī	'it's a clothes box'	
	apoti iwe nī	'it's a book box'	
ìwě	ìwe nī		
	iwe kinī		
	iwe işīro nī	it's an arithmetic book!	
	iwě yōrůbă nī	itis a Yoruba book!	

ewu ewu nī

ewù kinī

ewù awotele nī 'its an undergarment'

(not necessarily underwear)

ewu agbada nī 'it's an agbada'

ewù īse nī

'it's a garment for work'

bata nī bata

bata kinī

bata se nī

'they are work shoes'

Practice these 3-line conversations until you can go through each after hearing its cue word.

The final sentence in each of these sets contains a construction which consists of one noun (e.g. apoti) followed by another (e.g. <u>aṣō</u>). Notice that in this construction elision does not take place (1.e. no mora is lost as we go from full form to casual form). Assimilation of vowel quality may or may not take place. It is more likely to take place when the particular combination of nouns happens to be a frequent one.

UNIT 5

BASIC DIALOGUE: 'How are you doing?... Did you sell the Α. knife?....'

Α

ewō what? which? şē do, make

ewō lẹ̃ sẽ Èwo nı e se?

How are you doing?